

Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission
Minutes of Meeting – February 6, 2003

Present: Commissioners
Ron Welton, Executive Director, KNHPAC
Sue Cone, Village of Calumet
Kathryn Eckert, At-Large, National Park Service
Larry Lankton, At-Large, National Park Service
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township
Tom Nemacheck, State of Michigan
Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Township

National Park Service - KEWE
Frank Fiala, Superintendent
Martha Armington, Management Assistant
Steve DeLong, Landscape Architect
Abby Sue Fisher, Chief of Museum, Archives & Historical Services
Kathleen Harter, Chief of Interpretation
Brian Hoduski, Curator
John Rosemurgy, Historical Architect
Jo Urion, Oral Historian

Guests
Richard Dana, Coppertown
Jesse Drake, The Daily Mining Gazette
Erik Nordberg, MTU Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Tom Tikkanen, Calumet Township
Amy Wisti, office of Rep. Bart Stupak
Ed Yarbrough, Quincy Mine Hoist Association

Absent: Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners

Recording Secretary: Abby Sue Fisher

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held on Thursday, February 6, 2003 at the KEWE Headquarters in Calumet. Chairman Paul Lehto called the meeting to order and asked Frank Fiala to make introductions.

Frank introduced community members Erik Nordberg, Richard Dana, Tom Tikkanen, and Jesse Drake; and KEWE staff Brian Hoduski, Jo Urion, Abby Sue Fisher, Steve DeLong, Martha Armington and Kathleen Harter, the new chief of interpretation. Kathleen's last assignment was in the Midwest Fire Division in Omaha but she has roots in the local area. Good-byes were also

made to former KEWE staff Rodney and Geri Larsen. Rodney moved to Harper's Ferry, and Geri is transitioning into the Historic Preservation Training Center as a trainee.

Agenda

The agenda was approved with no additions. Paul requested that the Commission members remain after the meeting for a short closed session.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the Advisory Commission meeting held October 26, 2002 were approved with the following correction: on page 7, second paragraph from the bottom, the Village president approval amount should be \$500, not \$5,000.

Report from the KEWE Superintendent

► 10th Anniversary Celebrations:

Frank thanked the Commission members and KEWE staff for their assistance with the event.

► Properties:

- 1) The front entrance of the C&H Administration Building has turned out very well. The renovation is approximately 98% complete; additional painting and small touch-ups will be done in the spring. Overall a very successful project. Frank thanked Christman, their workers and subcontractors who contributed to the renovation and rehabilitation of the building. Hopefully, the interior of the project will be coming in this year's appropriation.
- 2) The Union building project has hit a few snags. KEWE is taking a traditional construction management approach with specs and bidding, as recommended by the regional office. This differs from the design/build process used in the Administration Building. KEWE is negotiating with an A&E firm to establish their fees, and that has caused delays. Frank is optimistic the contract will be let by late summer.
- 3) KEWE has met with Isle Royale National Park and Franklin Township with the smelter project. Isle Royale has been asked to do some internal scoping and validate the planned use of the smelter, preferably before the Island opens in April. Steve DeLong, John Rosemurgy, and Frank presented a workshop with the Township in November and they are excited about those plans. Steve is completing a year-long study and will submit a report on that shortly.
- 4) The alternative transportation study with Michigan Tech's Civil Engineering Department continues. MTU has been asked to do some additional work but Frank is optimistic the project will begin in the spring.

- 5) Frank presented the new KEWE Newsletter, which recaps the 10th anniversary, as well as articles about other KEWE-sponsored events or programs. Keweenaw County Historical Society received a national award. Other articles highlight John's work training others on historic districts, a maintenance workshop led by Geri, and a sign project done with the local school district.
- 6) Approximately three weeks ago, KEWE received the Unigrid brochure. Frank thanked Tom Baker and Brian Hoduski for their efforts.
- 7) KEWE anticipates that Rowe will vacate warehouse No. 1 by April 1 and the Park will then evaluate and assess the building for curatorial storage use.

► Budget:

- 1) The Park is under a continuing resolution for fiscal year 2003. The 2004 budget was introduced Monday, February 3.

► Activities:

- 1) Michael Matts of the National Trust for Historic Preservation visited recently. Ron Welton will elaborate further in his report following Frank.
- 2) Peter Forbes with the Land Trust visited in November, sponsored in part by KEWE and turnout was good. His presentation concerned the value of recognizing and saving community amenities.
- 3) Ed McMahon, author of "Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities," will visit the area on March 31 and April 1, speaking on land use and putting development into perspective. KEWE is a sponsor for the event..
- 4) The Park is busy with two major projects: First, a service-wide comprehensive call is due Friday, February 14 involving all projects KEWE is seeking funding for during fiscal years 2005 and 2006. Staff is involved writing project statements supporting the document. Second, the Park is also putting in for some base budget requests to implement some planned programs, primarily in interpretation.
- 5) In January, Frank, Ron, and Sue Cone attended a presentation by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation who is sponsoring a revival of the Michigan Main Street Program. Frank advised Commission members to check their packets to learn more about the program. Frank supports this program for the Village of Calumet. The Downtown Development Authorities for both the Village and the Township have supported it. Approximately \$60,000-\$70,000 is needed annually to support that program. A manager will be hired to champion that, also there will be expertise given from the MEDC which oversees the Main Street Program. Sue and Ron will speak more about this program in their reports.

► Land Acquisition

- 1) Approximately three weeks ago, the Coppertown Board voted to sell the property to the Park. This effort was begun two years ago where Coppertown took title to the Morrison School as the School's future was uncertain. The idea is to relocate the museum there, and KEWE will work with Coppertown to make that transition. Coppertown will likely be in its current location for approximately two years.
- 2) Last fall, conduit was installed that hopefully will enable the former Library Building and the KEWE Administrative Offices to be on one phone system.

► Upcoming Events

- 1) The George Wright Society Meeting will occur in April, and the Michigan Historic Preservation Network Annual Conference in Kalamazoo will be held the 24th--26th. Much of the KEWE staff will be attending both conferences.
- 2) At last night's meeting, the City of Hancock passed a resolution in opposition of the fourth lane addition that MDOT has proposed, and which KEWE had agreed to. Frank does not have much more information. He and Steve had worked hard to resolve some of the issues MDOT raised. Kathryn Eckert asked where the fourth lane would be, and Frank replied it is on Quincy Hill. Steve indicated the City would like to see the lane extend farther out, as they are concerned about additional traffic once the Seaman Mineral Museum is relocated.

Questions asked of the Superintendent:

Paul commented on the storage of artifacts in the Rowe Building. He would like to see all the Oddfellows artifacts he has in the warehouse moved and preserved. Frank indicated that Abby Sue Fisher and staff would be happy to assist with that project.

Sue reported that they did not receive the last \$100,000 expected. Frank reported all the paperwork was submitted and was surprised to hear she did not receive it. He will check on it.

Larry Lankton asked for an update on the smelter. Frank reported the smelter has been designated as a visitor orientation center for the Park. ISRO may have been a contributing agency. Subsequent issues included passenger service and moving ISRO location. John and Steve have been working for the past nine months with some people to accommodate ISRO's needs. Larry asked about specific buildings (casting shed, cupola furnace building) and if any of that had progressed. Frank said the whole facility has great interpretive potential and the Park is working on stabilization projects. Steve added that the first thing is to stabilize the resources and will be receiving cost estimates relating to each structure. Prof. Martin and Gianfranco Archimede of MTU are working on a report to assess the site. It is time-consuming and there has been a lot of coordinating of efforts but Steve is optimistic. Larry asked about the likelihood of privatizing the site. Frank reported they are interested in leasing the whole site for Park purposes.

Some private concession opportunity might be available, as well as transportation services, but the context of the story deserves it to remain whole.

Report from the KHNPA Executive Director

Ron reported he has been spending his first few weeks getting to know the area and its cultural heritage. He is most excited about the Main Street Program, which is a powerful tool to renew tourism and economic development. Over 1,600 communities have been involved in Main Street nationwide have seen \$16 billion in investment in their communities. Competition is fierce in Michigan's communities of which 2-10 will be chosen, but Ron feels Calumet has a lot going for it. The selection process is long and arduous; applicants must put together a budget for a three-year commitment to the program, and Ron feels the Commission has a role. It is an excellent use of the Commission's resources to be used to leverage additional funding. Ron thanked Sue and Paul and asked them for additional comments.

Sue indicated that after the Main Street workshop, a steering committee was formed to look at how the program would fit the Village. The DDA in Calumet and the Village Council supported this resolution. The timeline is very short. A letter of intent has been sent – before the February 12 deadline – and the application is due April 4. The application must contain a committed budget with money in place. They are moving quickly to get that done. They can count on the Villages, the DDAs, the Township and probably the Commission, and that support will be used to get more money from others. Sue would like the Commission to adopt the resolution, changing the current wording of 'Calumet Township,' to 'Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission.' At the bottom, she would like to add a provision that the Commission will also contribute up to \$10,000 annually to the Main Street Program. Kathryn asked the total dollar amount need annually for the program. Sue reported it would be \$60,000 to \$70,000 per year, for three years. Kathryn asked how Sue planned to get the remainder of the funding, if the Commission only provides one-sixth. Sue indicated half or more has already been raised from the DDAs, the Township, the Village and the Commission. A short discussion about funding followed, with many people talking at once.

Ron said they would use the fact that approximately half the money has already been committed to leverage other businesses and institutions that have a stake in seeing downtown be successful (banks, utilities). Frank said local government is the basis of support.

Sue distributed the budget spreadsheet, with a reminder that the application is due April 4. Steve said the applicants will be selected in early June. Paul said they promised to send a team up after April to visit the communities who had applied.

Larry was skeptical of bank support. Most banks now are not "local," and do not have local ties. The bureaucracy involved may occur downstate or out of state where the local community may not be too much of a draw. Frank said the support from the MEDC is vital to the project. Kathryn believes other support will not be hard to get.

Before making a motion to support the project financially, Larry inquired as to what percentage of the Advisory Commission budget is discretionary. Ron said the \$10,000 supporting the Main

Street Project would take up most of it. However, it is a great opportunity to use in leveraging other dollars to greatly improve the local area. The Main Street Project is a proven program for occupying empty buildings. Sue said there currently is \$130,000 - \$140,000 in the bank, and is waiting to get another \$100,000 that could come at any time, as carry-over from the past. Tom Nemacheck said on an annual basis, the support represents ten percent of the funds, and there would be nothing more significant that could be done with the money than the Main Street Program. Tom motioned that the Commission approve \$10,000 to support the program annually, using the resolution with changes that Sue suggested. Larry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ron continued with his report. He recommended some strategic planning now that the Park has grown and the Commission has some operating power. The National Trust in the Midwest Office will assist with that. He distributed an outline detailing that planning. Kathryn asked if there would be a financial commitment, and Ron said it would be a shared commitment by the Park and the Commission. He estimated about \$25,000 for the full plan. Kathryn asked Ron to put together the accomplishments of the Commission in order to prepare for a strategic planning session. Ron distributed copies of the Commission's duties and responsibilities as outlined in the Park's general plan. Tom asked about a timeline. Frank said it should be carried over two fiscal years. Tom said this needs to be the highest priority for it to be effective; both the Commission and the Park needs to give up the time to do it. Ron said it would be about three days total for the time commitment. Ron said it would benefit the Commission, the Park, and the cooperating sites, although Frank said the Commission is charged with writing the strategic plan in the legislation. Michael Matts would be an asset and is an excellent facilitator. Frank will commit some financial support to the process. He suggested a motion could be made whereby the Commission agrees to engage in the strategic plan, with an actual cost accounting formulated by the next meeting, and on the agenda for the next meeting, a motion would be made to proceed with the Plan. Tom said it should be done anyway and suggested just making a motion now. Clyde Raasio motioned the Commission support Ron in the strategic plan process. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.

Paul asked Ron to summarize the Commission's budget for the last two years. Ron agreed to send members a statement before each meeting. Kathryn would like the minutes and agenda sent before the next meeting. She did not receive an agenda for this meeting.

Ron continued his report, distributing a flyer detailing the Fourth Thursday in History series' upcoming events and asked Abby Sue to give some details on the Local History Smackdown. Abby Sue deferred to Brian, who gave a description of the event. Erik Nordberg added that this may become an annual event. Frank is excited to see how the event develops this year with hope for future success.

In other news, Ron said the Village of Laurium has begun the process of becoming a National Registered Historic District. He distributed a newspaper article detailing that process. The Old Settlers' Ball and Copper Country Homecoming is slated for early July, 2004. He gave the history of the first two Settlers' Balls which occurred in 1874 and 1890. The Society of Automotive Engineers' Clean Snowmobile Challenge is moving from Yellowstone National Park to the Keweenaw this spring. Some representatives from Yellowstone will be in attendance to "pass the flag" as the Challenge moves on.

Paul asked for a ten-minute recess before the Commissioners give their individual reports.

[tape off]

[tape resumed]

Reports from the Commissioners

Clyde and Kathryn had nothing to report.

Larry is continuing to write the Historic Resource Study for the Park and has a graduate student assisting him. Reporting on St. Anne's, Larry is happy with the extensive renovations of the building. A restroom and kitchen area has been added to the basement, a staircase connecting the floors resolves fire code and exit issues, and six stained glass panels have been installed, due to a small grant from the Americana Foundation. Kim Hoagland (MTU Social Sciences Dept.) will be installing an exhibit on company housing. Larry also reported that the Industrial Archeology program at MTU lost an anthropologist, and in replacing that person, the position description was made specific to hiring a historical archeologist. There are three highly qualified candidates.

Kathryn forgot she wanted to mention that the American Foundation did award a grant to the Houghton County Historical Society in its repair of the steeple on the Congregational Church in Lake Linden. Second, Prof. Bob Grese, an archeology professor at the University of Michigan, has a graduate student of landscape architecture who would like a placement either at KEWE or a conservancy group. Kathryn gave Prof. Grese Ron's contact information. Sue asked Kathryn if the focus of the Americana Foundation had changed (she had been told it had); Kathryn said its focus has not really changed but the endowment had decreased due to the stock market. Sue asked if they should re-apply for grants and Kathryn advised Sue to speak with Marty Fluharty first. Kathryn will investigate when Marty's next visit will be and let Sue know.

Sue said the Pine Street brick project is in the bidding process. She thanked Steve DeLong and Joseph Mihal for working with MDOT and the Village in directing this project. There are two Sixth Street projects that will occur this summer. The Historic District Commission in Calumet has been active since October. They have hired a coordinator, Campbell Sutton, who has an office in the Town Hall. Sue thanked John Rosemurgy for assisting them with guidelines. Sue has turned all bookkeeping over to Ron.

Tom distributed an article mentioning KEWE regarding the "HAL," the History, Arts and Libraries project discussed at the Michigan Annual Tourism Conference recently held in Dearborn. The State's tourism budget directs 25% of its commitment to HAL in promoting cultural tourism. Tom has had two meetings with the governor-elect tourism team, now the governor tourism team (same people), and no news yet on how the governor will view tourism. Tom is disappointed that the governor did not mention tourism as the second-largest industry in the state being something that would generate income. As a comparison, Michigan has a \$11-\$12 million budget to promote tourism, where Illinois' budget is \$54 million. Tom is working on a study that does not directly pertain to the Keweenaw but will have widespread effect. Tom was not at the last KNHPAC meeting, but was disappointed to read in the minutes that Ed Yarbrough

had reported Quincy Mine attendance being down 4% this year, while U.P. expenditures grew by 9% during the same time period. The Commission needs to work with its cooperating sites to understand attendance issues and improve the economy of the area. Tom suspects that the Keweenaw is good at returning business, but is not as good at "new customer" business. The Commission should work with Michigan State University or another entity to develop a benchmark reporting program that the cooperating sites would follow in reporting attendance figures on an annual basis.

Clyde asked Ed to clarify -- regarding the 4% visitation percentage for 2002, this was a decrease from 2001, which was an unusually good year. Ed affirmed 2001 was up 25% in visitation, and then in 2002, they were down 4% from the 25% high from 2001. Ed also added that merchandise sales last year increased, so financially they were the same as 2001. Evening hours were suggested and added last year, and that may have affected merchandise sales. Tom said it was the charge of the Commission to assist the cooperating sites. Ed stated all but two of the cooperating sites are non-profit, and as such have to reveal financial information to anyone who asks. If the Commission requests financial information from Quincy, he is happy to provide it.

Tom reported the U.P. Tourism Conference this year is in Brimley, May 14 and 15.

Paul agreed with Tom that cooperating sites should submit a common annual visitation report for evaluation purposes. He reported on the work Larry mentioned is in process at St. Anne's. Calumet Township is getting ready to bid on the scaffolding to repair the smoke stack. He would like Frank to report later on the appointment of Commission members regarding terms expiring. Paul is now a member of the Quincy Mine Board. Stabilization of the drill shop has been completed; between the Park Service and the Township and an insurance settlement, \$58,000 was spent on the drill shop roof and stabilizing the interior. Half of the building has been cleaned out. Additional roof work is needed and scheduled for the summer. The EPA is coming this summer to work on the Calumet Dam site and cover the stamp stands. Michigan Historic Preservation Week is either May 5th or May 11th. Paul hears there is a team coming up to talk about historic tax credits. He would like to see a program promoting a walking tour of the some of the buildings; St. Anne's, drill shop, boiler house, school bus garage, Miscouaubik Club. Paul is looking for volunteers to put this program together. Frank suggested either his staff or Ron could put something together for that.

Reports from Legislative Office

Amy Wisti reported there was another continuing resolution so everything stays as it was last year. Congressman Stupak's district administrator for 8 years, Matt Johnson, has taken a position as Governor Granholm's aide for the Upper Peninsula. Tom Baldini, former Governor Blanchard's U.P. aide, is taking Matt's place as district administrator.

Paul had forgotten to mention that Calumet Township will be a participant in funding the Main Street program. They have scheduled a budget session with the Township and the DDA to commit to that program.

Public Questions and Comments

Ed is happy to have Paul on the Board and the Commission. There was a lot of stabilization work in November and early December on the mine, about 100 roof bolts and about 25 anchor bolts; a good way to learn about mining. Christmas sales were slightly down but less was spent on advertising. Quincy usually cooperates with Isle Royale Natural History Association but this year IRNHO decided not to advertise. Although sales were down, so were expenses and Quincy saw a profit over Christmas. Ed plans to open Quincy on Saturday, May 3.

Paul forgot to thank John and KEWE staff for their work on the drill shop roof.

Erik Nordberg thanked Abby Sue for donating materials to a humidification chamber for the MTU Archives, and for her help in constructing it. Prof. Charlie Hyde at Wayne State also donated some money to that project. The chamber has already been used to preserve some drawings received from Gundlach of local buildings. The Archives is also working on an application to the Federal Institute for Museum and Library Services for some money towards a digitization project. The project would involve digitizing historical photos from several agencies and provide access through a single website. Grant agencies are especially interested in funding collaborative projects. Erik also added to Ron's report of the Old Settlers' Ball. In conjunction with that event, a Copper Country History Symposium is being organized that would include two days of presentations on various aspects of local history. Presentations would be a mix of traditional academic research and general topics geared toward a general audience.

Richard Dana added to Frank's report on the sale of Coppertown. He wanted to thank all the volunteers who worked at Coppertown and is excited about the museum's new direction. He is totally supportive of the Main Street program and will financially support that program to some extent. A major donation has been made to the Keweenaw County Historical Society which enables them to take a lease with the State of Michigan for the marina building in Eagle Harbor. A 36' 1937 Coast Guard boat and a 26' turn-of-the-century boat are already housed there. The Society was also given a 26' open lifeboat, complete with rudder, sails, and oars, in beautiful condition. The visitors' center at Central will be completed and open this summer, and a salt box house will be stabilized for future renovation.

Mary Hunt attended the Winter Cities conference in Sault Ste. Marie and will provide copies of notes for any interested party via e-mail. She would like to see a revival of the Lake Superior circle tour. It will take a lot of cooperation, networking and energy on behalf of different sites and organizations. She provided examples of different types of travel brochures for review. A short discussion on sandstone architecture followed.

Paul reminded everyone the next meeting would be April 29, and asked everyone to stay for a brief executive session. Regarding Commission appointments, Frank said Chip Fagen in Washington reported the person involved for the National Park Service is on detail so things have stalled. He spoke with Bill and Al when they were here, and they recommended the Commission write their Congressional representatives. Five seats have expired. Sue asked if Ron could write a summary of appointments. Kathryn said a roster would be helpful with names,

address, phone numbers, e-mails and appointment dates. Erik added that might be critical in strategic planning if some board members are leaving and being replaced with five new faces.

Paul said there was an opportunity to purchase two videos of the 10th Anniversary banquet for \$30/set. These could be given to Commission members and sent to important guests. Frank is providing some to attendees already. Larry motioned that Paul be allowed to buy ten sets and distribute them as he see fit. Sue seconded, and motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35. Following the meeting, a closed executive session was held to discuss a personnel matter.

Meeting Dates:

2 nd quarter:	Tuesday, April 29, 2003
3 rd quarter:	Tuesday, July 22, 2003
4 th quarter:	Tuesday, October 14, 2003